arc at present 3 vacancies in the Karnataka High Court which arose on the following dates:—

| Sl. No. | Date |
|---|---|
| 1. | 14-11-1984 |
| 2. | 24-10-1985 |
| 3. | 18-12-1985 |

It has also been agreed in principle to create 4 new posts of Judges and 2 new posts of Additional Judges in the High Court.

**Polyester Staple Fibre Cost Study by BICP**

1195. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAG HELA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has completed the Polyester Staple Fibre Cost Study;

(b) if so what are the findings thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to implement the recommendations of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Public dial STD facilities**

1196. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1436 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th March, 1986 and state;

(a) whether there is public dial facility in all tlie towns of Kerala State wWch have STD;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to extend pubile dialling facility in all the STD linked towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir. Out of 43 towns having STD facility in Kerala State only 23 towns have STD Public Telephones.

(b) STD Public Telephones are not sanctioned as a matter of policy at all stations having STD facility. They axe pirovided subject to technical feasibility especially with regard to metering and expected use.

(c) At present STD Public Telephones can be only from Departmental Offices like Telegraph Offices and exchanges because charges are to be collected by an attendant in accordance with a meter reading. Not every where can this meter be provided due to operat ing technical limitation.

Coin-operated STD Public Telephones arc being planned. They may be available in large quantities in the later half of the 7th Plan (1985—1990).

**Production of PTA and DMT for the manufacture of polyester**

1197. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA; Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PTA is considered as more efficient and mora economical raw-material for Polyester Filament Yarn/Polyester Staple Fibre as against Dimethyl Terephthalate;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to stop any further increase in the capacity of DMT production in India; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI *M.* ARUNACHALAM); (a) Dimethyl TrsrephthalaU (DMTj and Purified Terephthalate (PTA)

are alternative raw-materials for manufacture of Polyester. PTA is a later entrant and stoichometrically more DMT is required that PTA for one tonne Polyester.

(b) The requirement of DMT and PTA depends on the users who would assess their needs based on the various factors like existing equipment, additional facilities required etc. Government's policy would be to meet the demands of both DMT and PTA to the extent these items are required by the user-industry.

**Consequences of stoppage of R.M.S. sorting**

1198. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the stoppage of sorting by R.M.S. the delivery of letters from Patna to Calcutta which used to take two days earlier now takes five days and ten days for the neighbouring areas like Asansol and Burdwan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of this inordinate delay private dak agencies are emerging fast; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Long term plan for export by Public Sector Units**

1199. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the public sector units to draw up a long term plan for export by public sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the response of the public sector the-eto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TEWARI): (a) to (c) With a view to broad-basing of their operations and to play a bigger role in the export effort of the country, the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the Department of Public Enterprises had been asked to draw up long term export plans. The PSUs, have since drawn up their tentative long term export plans.

**Closing down of non-viable public sector undertakings**

1200. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA; Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government has a proposal under consideration to close down non-viable public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TIWARI); (a) No decision has been taken to close down non-viable public sector undertakings.

(b) Does not arise.

**Increase ;n tbe number of sick Industrial Units**

1201. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial increase in the number of sick industrial units in the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of (i) small scale; (ii) medium scale and (iu)